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ABSTRACT

An inevitable tension exists between what parents want for their own child and the educational opportunities that schools now provide for all children. This handbook shows parents and policymakers how to cooperatively improve schools for all children by explaining effective educational practices and suggesting educational policy reforms. Schools and school policies are analyzed from the following perspectives: (1) culture; (2) learning; (3) the classroom; (4) valued-knowledge; (5) evaluation and sorting; (6) special needs; (7) parent involvement; and (8) school reform. Each perspective offers a broad understanding of the following issues: (1) how the overall organization and atmosphere of a school affect students' opportunities to learn; (2) how classroom environments affects students' self-esteem; (3) how various classroom techniques affect how students learn the most important subjects; and (4) how the home environment affects school success. Recommendations are made for educational policy reform, based on democratic values and educational research. Each chapter includes suggestions for further reading. An index is appended. (FMW)

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Appendix 15

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Appendix 16

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